White Paper on Public Sector

815. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Confederation of Officers' Association of Central Public Sector Undertakings has demanded from Government a white paper on the public sector spelling out the policy and consequences of such a policy, as reported in the Hindustan Times, dated 13th July, 2000;

(b) whether SCOPE have also urged the Government to undertake the disinvestment process in a systematic, organised and transparent manner; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction to National Confederation's query as to what will be the shape of India's economic and political sovereignty, if sector after sector is handed over to the private sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Disinvestment is carried out by the Govt. in various PSEs in accordance with the declared disinvestment policy in a systematic, organised and transperant manner. There is no unplanned disinvestment.

Warnings regarding sale of PSUs

816. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the newsitem "Not for Sale" published in the Hindustan Times, dated 21st June, 2000;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware of the forewarning of Prof. Jeffry Sachs to India about going ahead with the sale of PSUs without re-evaluating the assets of these companies at current prices;

(c) if so, the response of Government thereon;

(d) whether Government are aware of the views of University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) to the same effect drawing upon the experience of privatisation of Russian PSUs; and

(e) if so, the reaction thereto?